



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, August 24, 2007

## ***ARIZONA TEAMS WITH FEDERAL HOMELAND SECURITY TO CREATE SECURE ID***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has announced that Arizona will partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to launch a “3-in-1” driver’s license. The state of Arizona will enhance the security of the state driver’s license to meet Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requirements, provide Arizona employers with a secure document that can be used in validating a person’s legal status, and align to satisfy future requirements of Real ID.

The Arizona project, much like the agreement reached with Washington State earlier this year, will serve as a compliance alternative to WHTI requirements available to U.S. citizens. (Starting January 31, 2008, U.S. and Canadian citizens will need to present either a WHTI-compliant document or a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver’s license, plus proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, to be granted entry into the U.S. The federal government plans to end the routine practice of accepting oral declarations alone at land and sea ports of entry. The 9/11 Commission endorsed secure documentation for entering the country and Congress mandated WHTI implementation in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.)

The Arizona project will require legislative approval, which the Governor has committed to seek.

“Arizona has been a leader among the states on issues related to border security and immigration,” said Governor Napolitano. “My hope is that this project will lead to an effective permanent program that can be implemented nationwide.”

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said, “I applaud the leadership of the state of Arizona who came forward to join us in our effort to bolster security through secure identification. This partnership helps us strike the right balance between security and facilitation, incorporating 21st century technology and innovation.”

Under the plan, Arizona will develop a technologically enhanced driver’s license that will provide its residents, who voluntarily apply and qualify, with a document that is acceptable for use at U.S. land and seaports. The enhanced driver’s license will be slightly more expensive than a standard Arizona state driver’s license and will require proof of citizenship, identity, and residence.

In addition, the bearer will be able to use a newly-issued MVD card in the work eligibility process.

Finally, the Real ID requirements – slated to be issued later this year – are intended to strengthen the underlying document through physical security features and a secure issuance process. Arizona's new driver's license is poised to be one of the nation's first to comply with Real ID requirements. Governor Napolitano will continue to urge the federal government to fully fund Real ID, so it does not become another unfunded mandate to the states.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit [www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov).